the *status quo* were threatened. His main object was to build up a general organization to keep peace in Europe around an Anglo-French nucleus. Germany would see her interest in joining the group, and thereby checkmate reactionary and chauvinist forces in that country. Mr. Lloyd George rejoined that at the moment Parliament was only ready for a guarantee against invasion, but he would consult his colleagues.

When the two Prime Ministers shortly afterwards attended a meeting of the Supreme Council at Cannes, Mr. Lloyd George communicated an elaborate memorandum dated January 4, 1922, offering aid in the event of unprovoked German aggression against French soil. Obligations elsewhere would be contrary to our traditions. A complete entente would have to accompany the treaty, providing for the avoidance of naval competition and for whole-hearted co-operation in the economic and financial reconstruction of Europe to be initiated at a conference attended by Russia. Agreement concerning the Near East was also essential. The Memorandum exhaled an unmistakable resentment, particularly in regard to the French attitude on submarines at the Washington Conference. The French reply on January 8 argued that a guarantee of aid against aggression should be bilateral, for England's island position might one day be threatened by new inventions. Any attempt to remilitarize the Rhineland should be regarded as a case of aggression, and any violation of the military, naval and air clauses of the Treaty of Versailles should involve joint action. The strength of the respective forces should be regulated by agreement; there should be an understanding between the General Staflfs, and the Governments should consult on any threat to the general peace.

A draft treaty dated January 12 merely

promised British support in the event of unprovoked German aggression against the soil of France for ten years, and consultation if Germany took military, naval, or air measures inconsistent with the Treaty of Versailles. At this stage Briand was succeeded by Poincare, who introduced a stiffer tone. His draft proposed a bilateral guarantee for thirty years, continuous contact between the General Staffs, and consultation on threats to peace or to the treaty settlement. An elaborate Memorandum in February explained the French views. A unilateral promise, remarked the Preach Ambassador, would be contrary to the self-respect of France. Curzon pointed out various objections to the draft, including the term of thirty years;